

Executive Summary and Action Plan

The mission of the Jefferson County Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Program is to promote public policy designed to protect citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property, and the environment from wildfires. The Jefferson County Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan is developed as a foundational element of the Program and addresses privately held unincorporated urban and rural areas of the county and their interface points with Federal or State Lands such as the Bureau of Land Management or the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

This Plan establishes an action plan for mitigating the impacts associated with wildfires. If implemented over the next several years, the actions identified in this plan will help reduce the damages caused by wildfire in the wildland/urban interface. However, it is up to the community to ensure that these actions are taken. All mitigation is local and the primary responsibility for development and implementation of risk reduction strategies and policies lies with the identified local and federal jurisdictions. No plan is complete until it is implemented.

The county wildland/urban interface areas were all assessed during the summer of 2004. Based on the findings of the assessment, the assessment team geographically organized five (5) areas of risk or vulnerability zones and ranked them according to four criteria; Life Safety, Property Damage, Environmental Damage, and Economic Impact. The list of the respective zones and the identified mitigation implementing actions presented below represent a summary of the Jefferson County Wildland/Urban Interface Mitigation Program Action Plan.

Existing Actions

Red Zone Planning by the Central Fire District in WUI Vulnerability Zone 1

Short Term Actions

General Issues

- ✓ Develop a rural subdivision water supply building code.
- ✓ Develop defensible space programs around CRP Lands.

Heise/Lorenzo Riparian Area – WUI Vulnerability Zone 1

- ✓ Develop a wildland/urban interface public education program.
- ✓ Develop a fuels reduction program.
- ✓ Apply for grants to procure equipment used for mechanical treatment projects.
- ✓ Develop a year round static water source.
- ✓ Develop an evacuation plan.

Roberts Riparian Area – WUI Vulnerability Zone 2

- ✓ Develop a wildland/urban interface public education program.
- ✓ Develop a fuels reduction program.
- ✓ Apply for grants to procure equipment used for mechanical treatment projects.
- ✓ Develop a year round static water source.
- ✓ Develop an evacuation plan.

Menan/Deer Park Wildlife Mitigation Unit Area – WUI Vulnerability Zone 3

- ✓ Develop a wildland/urban interface public education program.
- ✓ Develop a fuels reduction program.
- ✓ Apply for grants to procure equipment used for mechanical treatment projects.
- ✓ Develop a year round static water source.
- ✓ Develop an evacuation plan.

Market Lake Wildlife Management Area – WUI Vulnerability Zone 4

- ✓ Develop a wildland/urban interface public education program.
- ✓ Develop an evacuation plan.

Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area – WUI Vulnerability Zone 5

- ✓ Develop a wildland/urban interface public education program.
- ✓ Develop an evacuation plan.

An economic analysis was conducted on all mitigation projects identified above. The analysis provides a foundation for the Jefferson County Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Group and the responsible fire districts to begin mitigation project prioritization. While some projects provide an excellent return on investment, other factors must be closely examined in the prioritization process. Life safety issues must always take precedence over costs.